

**A REVIEW OF THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED UNDER THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT TO END OF DECEMBER 2019**

*To:* **Constitution and Ethics Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **14th January 2020**

*From:* **Monitoring Officer**

*Electoral  
division(s):* **All**

*Purpose:* **To brief the Constitution and Ethics Committee on the number and nature of the complaints received about Members under the Code of Conduct from October 2019 to December 2019 along with details of other complaints which are in process or have been concluded.**

*Recommendation:* **The Constitution and Ethics Committee is recommended to:**

**Note the contents of this report.**

| <b><i>Officer contact:</i></b> |  |
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| Name:                          | Fiona McMillan   |
| Post:                          | Monitoring Officer   |
| Email:                         | <a href="mailto:fiona.mcmillan@peterborough.gov.uk">fiona.mcmillan@peterborough.gov.uk</a> |
| Tel:                           | 01733 452361 (office)  |

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Localism Act ("the Act") places a statutory duty on the County Council to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst its Members and co-opted Members. This includes the obligation on the County Council to have in place a Code of Conduct setting out the standard of conduct expected of Members when acting in their capacity as County Councillors.
- 1.2. The requirements of the Act are supported by Article 2 of the Constitution, Members of the Council, and by Part 5.1, Members' Code of Conduct. The Constitution and Ethics Committee's terms of reference give it authority to monitor the operation of the Code of Conduct and the complaints received under it.
- 1.3. This report serves to provide the Constitution and Ethics Committee with an overview of the complaints received under the Code of Conduct since it last met on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINTS

- 2.1. Since the last meeting two new complaints have been received in relation to county councillors, one of which is currently being assessed and the other has been passed to the relevant district council to process, as it related to the councillor's town councillor role rather than their county councillor role.
- 2.2. One other complaint against a county councillor is also currently being assessed.
- 2.3. The publication of details of complaints only takes place after conclusion of the complaint to reduce speculation on limited information, ensure there is no compromise of any assessment or investigation, and that the Data Protection Act 1998 is complied with.

| Source Documents | Location  |
|------------------|---|
| Decision Notices | Published on the Council's website at <a href="https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/contact-us/complain-about-a-councillor-or-co-opted-member/">https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/contact-us/complain-about-a-councillor-or-co-opted-member/</a> |